

Medicare Bill Will Reduce the Average Overall Cost of Prescription Drugs by 25%

(Source: Dept. of Health and Human Services)



Highlights of House-passed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill

- ✓ A universal, voluntary prescription drug entitlement for all seniors
- ✓ After an affordable premium and deductible, Medicare will cover 80 percent of drug costs up to \$2,000 per year
- ✓ Because a catastrophic illness shouldn't be allowed to bankrupt a senior, Medicare will cover 100 percent of drug costs above \$3,500 per year
- ✓ Low-income seniors will effectively have all their prescription costs covered, including their premium
- ✓ Choice of traditional Medicare, Enhanced Medicare, or Medicare Advantage plans - all three options offer universal drug benefits
- ✓ Because half of seniors suffer from five or more chronic illnesses, the bill will add new disease management benefits to focus on slowing the progress of diseases so seniors can stay healthy and out of the hospital or nursing home
- ✓ Electronic prescribing systems will reduce the chance of adverse drug interactions and medical errors
- ✓ Over 120 health care groups support the House Medicare bill, including the American Medical Association, the Patient Advocate Foundation, the American Hospital Association, and the Cancer Research Institute.

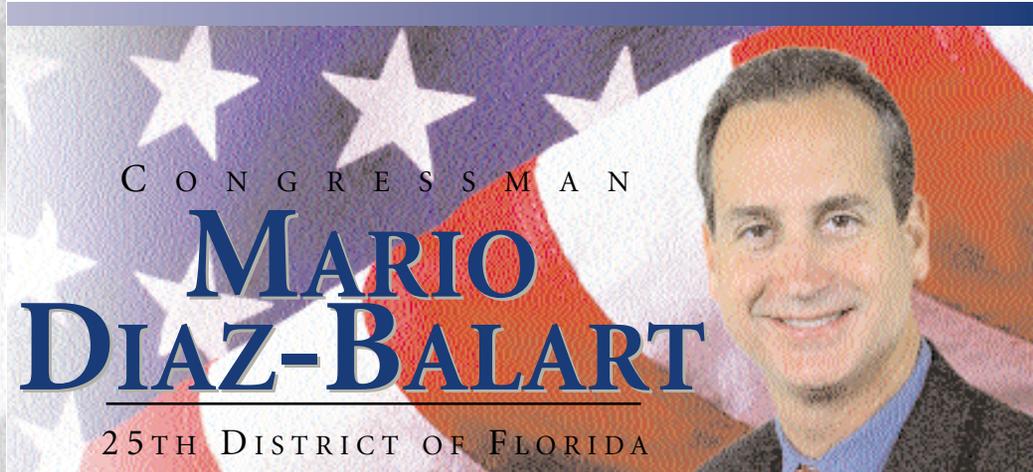


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C O N G R E S S M A N
**MARIO
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www.house.gov/mariodiaz-balart

Mario Diaz-Balart is Working to Make Prescription Drugs Affordable for Seniors

As part of the Prescription Drug Action Team appointed by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart helped write the Medicare prescription drug bill that passed the House in June. When this bill is enacted, the Medicare prescription drug benefit will improve the lives of all our seniors.

All too often, seniors are forced to choose between putting food on the table and buying the prescription drugs they need. This is unacceptable.

In the next few months, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart will continue to work with House and Senate leaders to produce a bill that truly helps our seniors.



Example #1 - Spends \$1,300 per year on Prescription Drugs

Under the New Medicare Prescription Drug Plan - Will Spend only \$815 per year!

Savings of \$485 per year (37%)



Example #2 - Spends \$2,500 per year on Prescription Drugs

Under the New Medicare Prescription Drug Plan - Will Spend only \$995 per year!

Savings of \$1505 per year (60%)